

## Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Schwartz, Van Hollen, Doggett, Blumenauer, McCollum, Yarmuth, Pascrell, Honda, Ryan (OH), Moore, Castor, Bass, and Bonamici

### Preventing the End of Medicare as We Know it

This amendment opposes any changes in law that would eliminate guaranteed health insurance benefits for seniors and people with disabilities under the Medicare program; increase costs for seniors and people with disabilities by establishing a Medicare voucher or premium support plan that provides limited payments to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase health care in the private health insurance market; or weaken the traditional Medicare program by diverting the healthiest enrollees into private plans and undermining the program's ability to control costs while offering access to a broad range of providers. The Republican budget calls for transforming Medicare into a premium support or voucher program, where seniors would be given a fixed payment for the purchase of health insurance that would not keep pace with rising health care costs over time, forcing seniors to face higher premiums, eroding coverage, or both.

A **YES** vote would protect the Medicare guarantee for senior citizens and persons with disabilities who rely on Medicare.

A **NO** vote puts health care coverage for these populations at risk by refusing to disallow proposals that shift health care costs from the federal government to seniors and persons with disabilities by transforming Medicare into a voucher or premium support system.

1. Strike Section 601 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.
2. At the end of Title VI, add the following:

“Sense of the House on preserving Medicare for seniors and persons with disabilities

(a) The House finds that---

- (1) fifty million senior citizens and persons with disabilities rely on Medicare to guarantee their health security;
- (2) Medicare has long been a leader in developing innovative ways to contain health care costs while protecting access to high-quality health care; and
- (3) the Affordable Care Act of 2010 makes significant progress in modernizing Medicare and represents the United States' best opportunity to develop a framework for continual improvement in Medicare's quality, efficiency, and fiscal sustainability based on solid evidence about which policies actually work to achieve these goals.

(b) It is the sense of that House that the Congress should not protect tax cuts for the wealthy and special interests while addressing the resulting budget deficits by making changes in law that would:

(1) eliminate guaranteed health insurance benefits for seniors and people with disabilities under the Medicare program;

(2) increase costs for seniors and people with disabilities by establishing a Medicare voucher or premium support plan that provides limited payments to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase health care in the private health insurance market; or

(3) weaken the traditional Medicare program and cause it to wither away, by diverting the healthiest enrollees into private plans and undermining traditional Medicare's ability to control costs while offering access to a broad range of providers."

3. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution supports the sense of the House that Medicare is a highly successful program that provides health security to 50 million senior citizens and disabled individuals, and that it should not be subject to any changes in law that would eliminate the Medicare guarantee of a specific set of health benefits, increase costs for seniors by converting Medicare into a voucher or premium support program, or weaken the traditional Medicare program.